

Disadvantages

Whatever you may
think of my suggesting
I am confident that
you will take no
umbrage at my have
offered them - for
what they are worth.

Very truly (Yours

Asa Gray

~~to Mr. H. H. Gray~~
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Gray

To Professor Henny

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APR
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BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

April 11, 1874

My Dear Sir

Permit me to make
a suggestion to you, as
the President of the
National Academy of
Sciences.

I am led to think
that the present is a
most favorable time to
endeavor to initiate
a certain change in
the organization of
that establishment,
which would probably
ensure for it a healthy
and prosperous existence.

under the best wishes of
of all.

namely to add the
word Washington to its
title, which gives a
local habitation while
it sufficiently indicates
what Nation the Acad=
emy belongs to.

I think the present
Members from a great
distance - not being in
the service of the U.S.
would be as well pleased
to be associate members
and that the Academy
taking root, and proving
a proper raison d'être

would begin to flourish,
and in due time be much
more important than
its elder sisters - the
American Philosophical
Society, and the Ameri=
can Academy of Arts
and Sciences

While President of
the latter I could
not for a moment
entertain the idea of
any prerogative of the
Washington Society,
such as its original
organization seemed to
claim. And I fancy
that experience has shown
that the plan adopted
was serious practical